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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029



FEB 29 2000

G.F. Adams, Captain
US Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office-Philadelphia
One Washington Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19147-4395

Re: 12th Street Landfill/Dump Site
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Captain Adams:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified an uncontrolled release of hazardous substances affecting the environment at the 12th Street Landfill/Dump Site ("Site") located in Wilmington, Delaware along the Brandywine Creek. EPA has previously coordinated with Mr. Ford of your office regarding this Site and is proposing a CERCLA Removal Action to prevent the continued release of lead, and other hazardous substances, to the Brandywine Creek from the Site. The Removal Action will include removal of highly contaminated sediment from the mudflat of the Brandywine Creek and cover of the highly contaminated bank. This correspondence serves to notify you that EPA will continue as the lead Federal Agency for response actions at this Site.

The Site is the location of an abandoned dump of industrial materials. The concentration of lead in the soil has been found at levels exceeding 200,000 mg/kg. The soil that makes up the Creek bank is highly contaminated. Erosion of the steep (near vertical) bank has caused lead and other hazardous substances (arsenic, barium, copper, and others) to migrate into the sediment of the Brandywine Creek. The concentration of lead in the sediment has been found up to 19,500 mg/kg.

EPA has proposed a Removal Action to quickly stabilize the eroding bank. After isolating the Creek from the Site, the steep grades will be modified and a protective cover installed over the contaminated soil. The creek sediment exhibiting elevated lead contamination will be removed such that remaining sediment lead levels do not exceed an average of 91.3 mg/kg. EPA has coordinated the development of this proposed Removal Action with US Fish and Wildlife and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) personnel here in Region III of EPA. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has also been consulted.

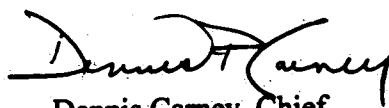
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EPA finds that removal of a limited area of Creek sediment is necessary to be protective of the aquatic environment. The upland area is characterized by sparse vegetation over a area of heavily contaminated soil. EPA's Removal Action proposes to cover this contaminated soil area.

EPA is now identifying potentially responsible parties for this release. EPA will notify these parties of their potential CERCLA liability.

I anticipate that Removal Actions may be initiated within 45 days pending access agreements. The OSC assigned to handle this release and Removal Action is Michael Towle, who can be reached at (215) 814-3272. If there are any questions concerning this Site or if your office requires further information, I may be reached at (215) 814-3241.

Sincerely,



Dennis Carney, Chief
Removal Response Branch

cc: DNREC